

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated July 16, 2004. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claim 2 has been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1 and 3-14 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 13 and 14 are in independent form.

Claims 1-7 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,269,336 (*Ladd et al.*). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Ladd et al.* The cancellation of Claim 2 renders the rejection of that claim moot. In response to the rejections of the other claims, Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks.

One feature of the invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is rule selecting means for extracting rule identification information from a document obtained by document obtaining means and for selecting a rule from among a plurality of rules based on the extracted rule identification information, each of the plurality of rules specifying respective sections of voice output contents and voice input candidates in the obtained document.

Ladd et al. relates to a voice browser for interactive services. The Office Action cites *Ladd et al.* as teaching a parser unit that receives information from a network fetcher unit and parses the information according to the syntax rules of the markup language. However, nothing in *Ladd et al.* is understood to teach or suggest at least rule selecting means for

extracting rule identification information from a document obtained by document obtaining means and for selecting a rule from among a plurality of rules based on the extracted rule identification information, each of the plurality of rules specifying respective sections of voice output contents and voice input candidates in the obtained document.

Since *Ladd et al.* does not contain all of the elements of independent Claim 1, that claim is believed allowable over the cited art. Since each of independent Claims 13 and 14 recites features similar or identical to those recited in Claim 1, those claims are also believed allowable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as pertain to Claim 1.

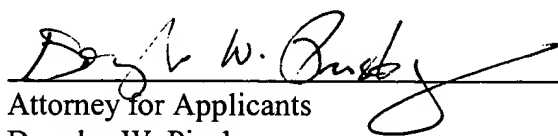
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 1 and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this Preliminary Amendment clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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